

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing device, a method for filtering messages received by an ~~message-handling mechanism~~ inbox program to route selected messages to applications rather than directly to a message inbox, the method comprising:

receiving a message at an inbox program ~~message-handling mechanism~~ that is configured to present message data to users, the inbox program including a message storing component;

upon detecting that the message should be sent to a set of at least one rule client, flagging the message at the ~~message-handling mechanism~~ inbox program, indicating that the message should be sent to a-the set of at least one rule client that has registered to receive messages that have been flagged, wherein the at least one rule client registers by registering a dynamic-link library in a system registry as a component object model object such that the rule client is loaded when the ~~message-handling mechanism~~ inbox program receives the message, the rule client being loaded in the inbox program's process space;

calling a create message function and passing the flagged message to the message storing component;

upon the message storing component detecting the flag, the message storing component calling a first rule client of the set of at least one rule client and providing the message to the first rule client rather than storing the message in the message inbox;

the first rule client processing the message such that the first rule client extracts information from the message and passes the information to an application program that is distinct from the ~~message-handling mechanism~~ inbox program; and

receiving data from the first rule client, the data indicating whether the ~~message-handling mechanism~~ inbox program may provide the message to the next rule client in the set of at least one rule client or discard the message.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a message comprises receiving a message in an SMS format.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a message comprises receiving a message formatted according to a protocol, the protocol belonging to a set containing IMAP4, POP3, ActiveSync, Instant Messaging and MMS.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein calling the first rule client and providing the message comprises calling the first rule client on a defined interface.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, upon determining that the data indicates that the message should be discarded, the ~~message-handling-mechanism~~inbox program deleting the message.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, upon determining that the data indicates that the message may be provided to the next rule client, determining whether there is a next rule client in the set of at least one rule client, and if so providing the message to the next rule client.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising, upon determining that there is no next rule client in the set of at least one rule client, storing the message for display in a user interface corresponding to the ~~message-handling-mechanism~~inbox program.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the data indicating that the ~~message-handling-mechanism~~inbox program may provide the message to the next rule client comprises information indicating that the first rule client was not interested in processing the message.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the data indicating that the ~~message-handling mechanism~~ inbox program may provide the message to the next rule client comprises information indicating that the first rule client processed the message.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the message comprises, making a copy of the message, and providing the copy to the first rule client.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~message-handling mechanism~~ inbox program ~~includes~~ comprises an inbox program and a message storing component, wherein the inbox program receives and flags the message and then calls the message storing component by passing the flagged message such that the message storing component, upon detecting the flagged message, calls the first rule client.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having stored computer-executable instructions which when executed perform the method of claim 1.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, the first rule client modifying the message.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the first rule client providing information to the ~~message handling mechanism~~inbox program indicating that the first rule client requests read-only access to messages.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the rule clients of the set of rule clients is ordered such that rule clients requesting read-only access to messages are called prior to rule clients requesting write access to the messages.

23. (Currently Amended) In a computing device, a system for filtering messages received by an inbox program to route selected messages to applications rather than directly to a message inbox message-handling mechanism, the system comprising:

a processor; and

memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor perform a method comprising:

receiving a message at an inbox program that is configured to present message data to users, the inbox program including a message storing component;

upon detecting that the message should be sent to a set of at least one rule client, flagging the message at the inbox program, indicating that the message should be sent to the set of at least one rule client that has registered to receive messages that have been flagged, wherein the at least one rule client registers by registering a dynamic-link library in a system registry as a component object model object such that the rule client is loaded when the inbox program receives the message, the rule client being loaded in the inbox program's process space;

calling a create message function and passing the flagged message to the message storing component;

upon the message storing component detecting the flag, the message storing component calling a first rule client of the set of at least one rule client and providing the message to the first rule client rather than storing the message in the message inbox;

the first rule client processing the message such that the first rule client extracts information from the message and passes the information to an application program that is distinct from the inbox program; and

receiving data from the first rule client, the data indicating whether the inbox program may provide the message to the next rule client in the set of at least one rule client or discard the message.

a message-handling mechanism coupled to a storage component and to a rule client, the message-handling mechanism being configured for performing the following:

~~receiving a message;~~
~~flagging the message indicating that the message should be sent to the rule client that has registered to receive messages; and~~
~~providing the message to the rule client rather than storing the message in the storage component; and~~
the rule client being configured for performing the following:
~~registering to receive messages that are flagged by registering a dynamic link library in a system registry as a component object model object such that the rule client is loaded when the message handling mechanism receives the message;~~
~~processing the message by extracting information from the message and passing the information to an application program; and~~
~~returning data to the message handling mechanism indicating whether the message handling mechanism may provide the message to another rule client or discard the message.~~

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 further comprising wherein, upon receiving the data from the first rule client indicating that the ~~message handling mechanism~~ inbox program may provide the message to ~~another~~ the next rule client, the ~~message handling mechanism~~ inbox program ~~storing~~ stores the message in a message inbox ~~the storage component~~.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the data returned from the first rule client ~~for the message~~ indicates that the first rule client was not interested in handling the message.

27-28. (Canceled)